



# RockvilleReports

APRIL 2015 • VOL. 61 #4

• A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE •

## City to Kick Off Comprehensive Master Plan Update

Rockville is embarking on an update to the City's Comprehensive Master Plan, which will guide the city's land use policies and investments in open space, roads and community facilities from now through 2040.

The city wants your vision to be part of Rockville's future. Join community members and city leaders at a kick-off event, where you can hear more about the process and find out how your voice can be part of the City's long term planning strategy. Join us:

- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Rockville Comprehensive Master Plan Kick-off Event  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 9  
**WHERE:** Buchanan Room at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St. in Town Square

- Buchanan Room at VisArts, 155 Gibbs Street in Town Square  
The Comprehensive Master Plan's recommendations will guide where, and in what form, new development, redevelopment and conservation will occur in the city. Other elements in the plan will address housing, the envi-

ronment, parks, transportation, historic and cultural preservation and urban design.

The process to update the master plan will be a collaborative effort between Rockville's community members, civic groups, business leaders and city leaders and planners. Many more opportunities to participate will follow in the coming months.

Join the conversation at Engage Rockville, the City's online civic engagement platform at [www.rockvillemd.gov/engage](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/engage). Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/masterplan) or call 240-314-8200. ✚

## Rockville Prepares for Election Changes

*A Four-Year Term, Early Voting and New Machines Coming*

Rockville voters will elect a new mayor and four councilmembers in November.

Several key changes will affect the Rockville election, including:

**Four-Year Term:** For the first time, Rockville voters will elect a Mayor and Council to serve a four-year term. This change was favored by a majority of voters in a 2013 ballot question and then enacted by the current Mayor and Council. After 2015, the next city election will take place in 2019.

**New Voting Machines:** Rockville is the first community in Maryland to pilot a new optical scan voting system, which allows voters to feed their hand-marked paper ballots into an optical scanner for tabulation. The new system is used by many other states and will be implemented throughout Maryland in April 2016.

**Early Voting:** The Board of Supervisors of Elections is exploring an option for Rockville voters to be able to cast ballots on a Saturday and Sunday in mid-October at City Hall.

**District 7 Polling Place Moving:** Residents in the city's

District 7 voting area (roughly west of I-270 and south of Route 28) will no longer vote at Ritchie Park Elementary School. The new polling place will be at the Latvian Lutheran Church, 400 Hurley Ave.

Residents are encouraged to consider running for elected office. Those interested may view the candidate information packet online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/election15](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/election15) or pick up a copy from the City Clerk's Office starting on May 1. The deadline to file as a candidate is Friday, Sept. 4.

Candidates who are interested in participating in the Memorial Day parade must be certified by the Board of Supervisors of Elections by May 15.

Rockville's Board of Supervisors of Elections is expected to present their recommendations on key issues for the 2015 election to the Mayor and Council at an upcoming council meeting. View upcoming agendas at [www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter) to see when the board will appear, or call the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280 for more information. ✚

## Crime Down Again in Rockville

*Burglaries, Robberies and Assaults Decreased in 2014*

The Rockville City Police Department reported a 3 percent overall decrease in crime in 2014, continuing a 10-year period in which Rockville has

seen significant crime reduction.

Each year, the department prepares a comparative uniform crime report based on the FBI's reporting program. Data is coded

as Part I or Part II offenses. Part I crimes are crimes against persons (murder, rape, robbery, assault) and crimes against

*continued on pg. 4...*

## Minority-, Female- and Disabled-Owned Business Outreach Goals Set

*Mayor and Council Establish Program to Foster Greater Participation in Procurement*

A new program is intended to foster increased participation by minority-, female- and disabled-owned (MFD) businesses in the city's procurement process.

The program will provide education and information about Rockville's procurement opportunities for businesses in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. metropolitan area that are at least 51 percent owned by a citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States who is an African American, American Indian/Native American, Asian, Hispanic, woman and/or person with disabilities.

As part of the program,

Rockville's Department of Finance's Purchasing Division will serve as an information resource and foster a positive environment for MFD businesses. City staff will identify proactive ways to include MFD businesses in city contracting by publicizing procurement opportunities at conferences, seminars, workshops and networking functions and by submitting articles about the program to minority and local publications.

The city also will work with Rockville Economic Development, Inc. and other partners to provide procurement training to MFD businesses. Rockville will provide bid in-

formation and provide technical assistance to MFD business owners, and upon request, discuss why a bid did not result in a contract award.

The 2010 census demonstrated Rockville's diversity, with the city's population of 61,000 people including 20.6 percent Asian, 14.3 percent Hispanic or Latino and 9.6 percent black.

Find more information about the program on the Mayor and Council agenda for Feb. 23 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/agenda](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/agenda) center, where video of the discussion is available by selecting the television icon next to the meeting date. ✚



**THE CITY OF ROCKVILLE JOINED IN BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK VISITS...** From March 9-13, the city's elected officials joined representatives from Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and the city's senior staff to visit 50 businesses. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton (third from right) presented a certificate to VisArts Executive Director Alice Nappy (third from left) during a visit to the art center. Also pictured are (L to R): Scott Samborn, Chamber board member; Karen Askin, outreach and special projects director, VisArts; REDI Executive Director Laurie Boyer; and REDI board member Susan Prince.

### Get Into It...

**PAGE 3** **Budget Preview**  
See what the city manager proposed for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

**PAGE 4** **Spring Break Fun**  
Register now for a camp at one of Rockville's community centers.

**PAGE 5** **Destructive Beetles**  
City crews work to remove trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer.

**PAGE 8** **Go Green**  
The city celebrates Earth Month with a variety of activities.

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

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# Community Survey Results

## Rockville's Quality of Life Rated High by Residents in Community Survey

Rockville residents like their quality of life and the vast majority think the services provided by the city are excellent or good, according to the most recent community survey.

Some of the key results of the survey include:

- **93 percent** of residents consider the overall quality of life in Rockville to be excellent or good
- **93 percent** say Rockville is an excellent or good place to raise children
- **86 percent** rate the overall quality of their neighborhood as excellent or good

The survey, conducted last fall by the National Research Center, polled a random sample of 2,000 residents and received responses from 792, for an excellent response rate of **41 percent**.

In several areas, Rockville scored much higher than the national benchmarks, including **71 percent** of residents strongly agreeing or agreeing that the city welcomes citizen involvement. In addition, **64 percent** strongly agree or agree that they receive good value for the city taxes they pay.

City employees' overall customer service was rated as excellent or good by **82 percent** of residents, which is much higher than the national benchmark.

The survey indicated that **60 percent** of residents strongly agree or agree that they are pleased with the overall direction that the Mayor and Council are taking,

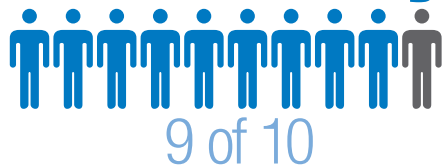
☺ *This is the nicest, cleanest, safest city in which I have ever lived.* ☺

which is higher than the national benchmark for this measure. More than half also strongly agree or agree that the city budgeting process is open and understandable to residents.

For the first time in 2014, residents were asked to rank 14 potential priorities for the city in the next two years. The pri-

Based on the Mayor and Council's Critical Success Factors, the survey results indicated...

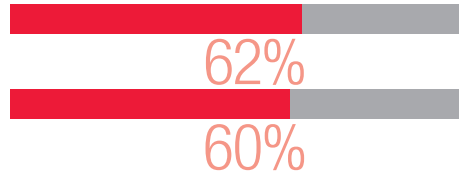
### Effective City Service Delivery



9 of 10 residents say Rockville's recycling and refuse efforts and its recreation centers are "excellent" or "good."

### Good Governance

62% of respondents are pleased with the performance of the Mayor and Council, while 60% are pleased with the overall direction of city government.



### Livable Neighborhoods



93% of residents say Rockville's overall quality of life is "excellent" or "good."

### Fiscal Responsibility

About 6 in 10 residents agreed that they received good value for the taxes paid to the City of Rockville government.

6 in 10 Residents



### Well-Planned Community



47% responded that they rode their bike regularly in the last 12 months, with 23% using it for errands and 18% using it for commuting.

### Engaged Residents

Seven in 10 respondents agreed that the Rockville City government welcomes citizen involvement. About half (56%) agreed that the City listens to its residents.



### Responsible Economic Development



8 in 10 Residents

About 8 in 10 residents rated the overall quality of business and services establishments in Rockville as "excellent" or "good."

### Stewardship of Infrastructure

About 8 in 10 residents rated water and sewer services as "excellent" or "good."

8 in 10 Residents



Read the full survey results at [www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey).  
Learn more about the Critical Success Factors at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil).

orities ranged from addressing crime to addressing traffic congestion and increasing the quality of bike lanes.

Priorities deemed the most important were:

- Maintaining public infrastructure (such as roads, bridges, public buildings, etc.)
- Transportation and traffic congestion
- Crime

Residents also identified some areas for improvement. Two-thirds of respondents said the city's availability of affordable housing was fair or poor, much lower than the national benchmark. And while nearly **60 percent** of residents say Rockville is an excellent or good place to retire, **14 percent** said it is a poor place to retire – also lower ratings than the national benchmark ratings.

The survey found that 72 percent of residents felt very or reasonably safe in their neighborhood after dark, and 63 percent felt the same in business areas after dark. While these ratings are below the national benchmark, they have improved from earlier Rockville community surveys and each is higher than any previous survey. For the first time, the survey asked residents to share why they chose to live in Rockville. The survey found that **63 percent** said it was because their job was here, **48 percent** cited the community's good neighborhoods, and **48 percent** said Rockville was a safe community in which to live.

☺ *A beautiful place to live overall. The City of Rockville does an excellent job.* ☺

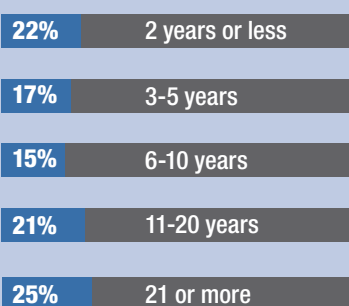
Every department is reviewing the survey findings to determine how the results can be used to improve performance.

### New Website Gets High Marks

More than half of residents responding to the survey had used the city's website in the last year, and two-thirds of them like its appearance, the current information it displays and its ease of navigation. This rating was higher than the national benchmark ratings. The website was redesigned in 2013, and **84 percent** of residents indicated they strongly or somewhat prefer to receive information from this source.

### A Breakdown of Who Responded...

Years lived in Rockville:



☺ *The guys who do trash and recycling collection are amazing. They do such a great job and they are worth the price we pay!* ☺

☺ *My quality of life is very good in Rockville. I like running and biking in the parks. Everything I need is nearby/close.* ☺

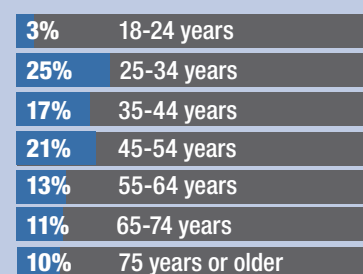
Language spoken in your home:

58% English only 42% Other

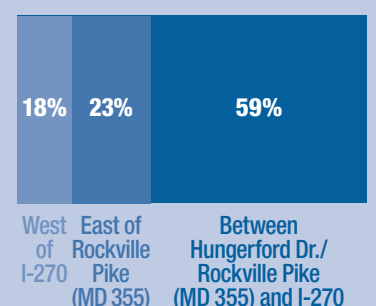
Gender of respondents:

46% Male 54% Female

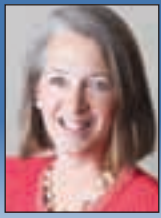
Age of respondents:



Which best describes where you live?



# Mayor & Council



Mayor  
Bridget Donnell Newton



Councilmember  
Beryl L. Feinberg



Councilmember  
Tom Moore



Councilmember  
Virginia D. Onley



Councilmember  
Julie Palakovich Carr

## MEETINGS & DROP-INS

Mayor and Council meet at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., on these Mondays:

**April 6, 13, 20 and 27**

Televised on Rockville 11, available via live streaming and on demand at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office.

**MAYOR Bridget Donnell Newton** will be joined by **COUNCILMEMBER Beryl L. Feinberg** on **April 13**.

No appointment necessary. A call to the City Clerk's Office, at 240-314-8280, is appreciated.

## Budget Watch: Fiscal Year 2016

Rockville's Mayor and Council continue budget deliberations this month with a series of public hearings and work sessions focused on crafting a Fiscal Year 2016 operating and capital budget that reflects the Mayor and Council's priorities.

On March 23, City Manager Barb Matthews presented the Mayor and Council with a FY16 budget proposal.

"The proposed FY 2016 budget focuses on 'taking action' with regards to funding infrastructure and facility needs, new or expanded programs, new consultant studies, and employee compensation," Matthews wrote in a letter presenting the proposal.

The FY16 budget book is redesigned, combining the proposed operating and capital budgets into a single document that reflects industry best practices. The user friendly format focuses on how the city is achieving the Mayor and Council's Critical Success Factors and overall vision. (Learn more about the Critical Success Factors on page 23 of the proposed budget at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).)

The budget, which covers the fiscal year that begins July 1, is scheduled to be adopted by the Mayor and Council on May 18.

### Operating Budget

The proposed FY16 operating budget of \$122.3 million is an increase of 3.6 percent over last year's total operating budget. The general fund budget, which supports the largest portion of the operating budget, is \$73.4 million, a 4.3 percent increase.

The city's current real property tax rate of \$0.292 per \$100 of assessed valuation is proposed to remain the same for FY16. All residential and commercial property owners pay this tax.

Property tax, the city's largest single source of general fund revenue, is estimated to increase by over 5 percent from FY 2015, mainly due to the most recent round of property assessments. Income tax, the city's second-largest single source of general fund revenue, is estimated to increase by 3.7 percent.

Matthews' proposal includes funding for three new full-time positions, a 2 percent across-the-board adjustment for all regular employees and increases for health care benefits. Four vacant positions would be eliminated. The proposal also includes funding to raise the city's minimum wage for temporary employees to \$9.55 as of July 1, mirroring the county's minimum wage

rate that is set to take effect on Oct. 1.

Costs associated with an ongoing study of the city's compensation and job classification structure also will be considered by the Mayor and Council as part of their budget deliberations.

### Capital Improvements Program

The proposed FY16 Capital Improvements Program (CIP), the five-year plan for funding new construction and infrastructure maintenance, includes \$25.3 million in new funding, combined with a carryover of \$38.8 million, to support 56 projects during the fiscal year.

The plan would include support for:

- Funding for bridge repairs, including a \$1.3 million taxpayer-supported debt issue in FY16 to address repairs to the First Street bridge and \$1.8 million in FY 2019 for repairs to the Hurley Avenue bridge.
- \$1.7 million in FY 2017 to begin improvements to the Swim and Fitness Center locker rooms and for improvements to the Civic Center in order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- \$3 million in FY 2018

to continue Swim and Fitness Center improvements

- Pedestrian safety initiatives and sidewalks
- Water, sewer and stormwater management system improvements, including debt issues to support the water, sewer and stormwater management funds
- Stabilization and rehabilitation of the King Farm Farmstead dairy barns
- Road and sidewalk repair and replacement
- A new utility billing system

### Enterprise Funds

Rockville operates six enterprise funds. They function like a private business, with costs fully recovered through user charges. The enterprise funds are the water fund, the sewer fund, the refuse fund, the stormwater management fund, the parking fund and the RedGate Golf Course fund.

The FY16 budget increases average residential utility bills under plans previously approved by the Mayor and Council.

The budget also includes an increase of \$21 per year for recycling and refuse service. Based on the FY16 rates, average annual residential expenses for city utilities for a family of four would increase by \$40.25. +

## IN BRIEF

### Stay Involved

Let the Mayor and Council know your thoughts on the proposed FY16 budget. Here's how:

- In person at a public hearing (see dates below)
- In writing to the Mayor and Council at 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850
- Via email to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov)

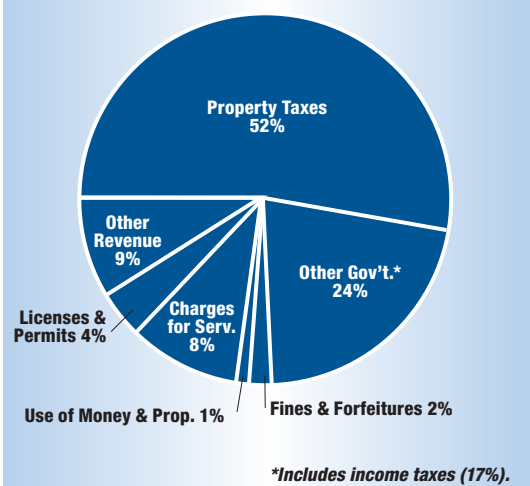
### Budget Dates at a Glance

- April 13: Mayor and Council budget work session and public hearing
- April 20: Final public hearing
- April 21: Public record closes
- May 4: Final Mayor and Council work session
- May 18: Mayor and Council adoption of the FY16 budget

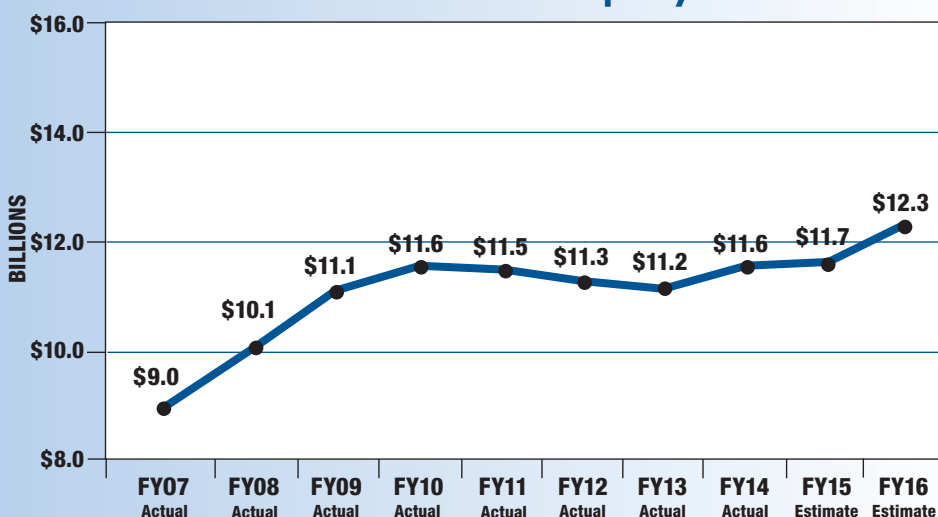
### Questions About the Budget?

- Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget)
- Contact the Finance Department at 240-314-8400.

## Proposed FY16 General Fund Revenues



## Taxable Assessed Value of Real Property



## Proposed Rockville Utility Rates

Based on the FY16 rates, average annual residential expenses for city utilities for a family of four would increase by \$40.25 for the year, an increase of 2.9 percent over the current average.

	ADOPTED FY 2015	PROPOSED FY 2016
<b>Refuse Rate</b>		
5.5% increase	\$379 per year	\$400 per year
<b>Sewer Rate*</b>		
14.4% increase	\$459.36 per year	\$525.48 per year
<b>Stormwater Management Rate</b>		
8.4% increase	\$112.15 per year	\$121.60 per year
<b>Water Rate*</b>		
13.3% decrease	\$422.24 per year	\$365.92 per year

\* A recent restructuring of the city's water and sewer rates creates a tiered rate structure based on meter size that focuses on increasing revenues from fixed sources like ready-to-serve charges. For more on water and sewer rates, see page 411 of the proposed budget at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).

## Rockville Police Hold Rabies Clinics

*Vaccinations Required for Dogs and Cats Older than 4 Months*

Rabies vaccination clinics are held on the third Sunday of each month through September from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, at 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, in Derwood.

The City of Rockville requires all dogs and cats older than 4 months to be vaccinated for rabies. All dogs older than 4 months are also required to be licensed. Failure to vaccinate an animal may subject the owner to a \$500 fine.

City of Rockville, City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County pets can be vaccinated for rabies after pet licenses are purchased at the clinic. Rabies vaccinations for cats and ferrets of Rockville residents and all out-of-county pets are \$4 per animal.

All animals must be leashed or in carriers and controlled to receive service.

Clinics will be held April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16 and Sept. 20. For more information, call 240-314-8930 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/rabiesclinic](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rabiesclinic).

## Apply for a Neighborhood Grant by April 15

Your neighborhood association could receive up to \$1,000 through Rockville's Organizing Communities and Neighborhoods (ROC-N) Matching Grant Program for:

- Technology or supplies for an existing community program
- Neighborhood crime prevention
- Neighborhood outreach and organizing
- Neighborhood planning
- Neighborhood preservation
- Social events aimed at fostering a sense of community pride

Qualified neighborhood organizations must provide a cash or in-kind match equal to or greater than the grant amount requested.

Find more information and applications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/ROC-NGrant](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/ROC-NGrant).



## Horizon Hill Park Project Slows in Spring

Work on the Horizon Hill Park stormwater management facility retrofit and stream restoration project will slow between March 16 and June 15. The Maryland Department of the Environment limits its work in the stream channel during this period to protect aquatic vegetation and wildlife during a critical period in their life cycle. Snow cover and heavily saturated ground have also slowed progress.

The project will restore the eroded stream valley, enhance water quality and stormwater management, and protect park amenities. Changes include the conversion of the upper and lower dry ponds to wet ponds, which will have permanent, year-round water surfaces. Additional changes include the widening and stabilization of portions of the stream that connects the middle and lower ponds.

Construction, including improvements to the park's pathways, is projected to be completed in the fall.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/horizonhillswm](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/horizonhillswm) or contact Gabe Kosarek, civil engineer, at 240-314-8513 or [gkosarek@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:gkosarek@rockvillemd.gov). For construction-related questions, contact Mike Wilhelm, chief of construction management, at 240-314-8542 or [mwilhelm@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mwilhelm@rockvillemd.gov).

# In The Community



## City Programs Keep Kids Active All Summer Long

Rockville has great opportunities for kids and teens to have a fun and active summer.



### Summer Camps

More than 65 camps will be offered from June 15-Aug. 21.

Kids will enjoy arts and crafts, swimming, sports, theater, nature activities and science throughout the summer.

Take advantage of before- and after-care, transportation and one- and multi-week options.

The city provides high quality camps with one counselor for every eight campers. An early bird discount on some camps ends April 8. Camps fill quickly, so register today to secure a spot.

Have a question about a camp? Email us at [camps@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:camps@rockvillemd.gov)

[rockvillemd.gov](http://rockvillemd.gov) and we'll get back to you by the next business day.

Find more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps).

### Summer Playgrounds

Rockville's Summer Playgrounds program runs for six weeks from June 22-July 31 in 10 sites in neighborhoods throughout the city.

The supervised, drop-in program, which features sports and games, crafts, nature and other exciting activities, is open to kids age 6-12. Two sites have an option of extended hours.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/summerplaygrounds](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/summerplaygrounds).

### Teens On the Go

Rockville Teen Programs organizes day trips throughout the summer for teens. Trips will be listed in the summer recreation guide, which will be online on April 28 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide).

If you have a question about a Rockville summer program, call 240-314-8620. ❖

## Crime Down Again in Rockville

*continued from pg. 1...*

property (burglary, larceny, theft and arson). Part II crimes include simple assault, curfew offenses, loitering, embezzlement, forgery and counterfeiting, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug and alcohol offenses, fraud, gambling, vandalism, and weapons offenses.

From 2013 to 2014, reports of Part I offenses decreased by 7 percent, while Part II crimes decreased by 2 percent.

In calendar year 2014,

Rockville saw significant decreases in reported offenses in several categories:

- Burglaries were down by 30 percent
- Robberies were down by 18 percent
- Aggravated assaults were down by 13 percent
- Auto thefts were down by 10 percent

The number of reported rapes in the City increased from six to 10. In eight of the incidents, the offender was known to the victim.

Read the full report and learn more about the department at [www.rockvillemd.gov/police](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police). ❖

## Spring Break Mini Camps

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will enjoy supervised programs and participate in crafts, organized games, sports and adventure. Mini-Camp also includes different day trips. Participants should bring a lunch each day and wear comfortable clothes and sneakers.



DATE & TIME:

April 6-10; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

COST:

\$140 Rockville residents  
\$150 Non-residents

Course #50377, Thomas Farm C.C.;  
Course #51019, Twinbrook C.R.C. Annex;  
Course #51021, Lincoln Park C.C.;  
Register at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov).

[www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide) • 240-314-8620



## Nature Center Hosts Spring Festival

Stop by the Croydon Creek Nature Center from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, for a festival celebrating spring and all things nature.

This free event includes woodland hikes, nature crafts and games, sustainability exhibits and a live animal show by Reptiles Alive! New this year, visi-

tors can purchase food from Dawson's Market's barbecue stand.

Native plants will also be available for purchase.

The nature center is located at 852 Avery Road (off Baltimore Road). Learn more about the nature center at [www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek) or by calling 240-314-8770. ❖

# News You Can Use

## Website Offers Many Ways to Get Into Rockville Online *Fifteen City Web Pages for 2015*

The City of Rockville's website includes hundreds of pages of information to put City government services and information at the fingertips of the community it serves.

Here's a guide to some of the useful, interesting or just plain fun pages:

From the home page [see No. 1], select the tab from the menu bar at the top to "Explore Rockville" [2], including city maps, photo galleries, a city history and a link to Engage Rockville, where community members can share ideas and suggestions for Rockville's future.

Discover the city's diversity by taking a closer look at its demographics with links to census data and an interactive demographic map [3] or get to know the city's neighborhoods [4].

Rockville prizes its parks and open space, including over 905 acres of parkland in 65 parks. Find photos, descriptions and directions to all of them [5]. Or learn how to rent or reserve a community facility, picnic area or garden plot [6].

The Rockville City Police Department's pages [7] include a wide variety of information, including regularly updated lists of speed camera [8] and red light camera locations [9], weekly crime reports [10] and everything you ever wanted to know about parking [11].

Learn what's going on with that new building going up [12] or find advisories about construction projects in city neighborhoods [13].

The website also offers opportunities to "Connect With Us" on social media [14] or ask a question, send a comment, report a concern, or make a request for city services [15].

1. Home page: [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).
2. Explore Rockville: [www.rockvillemd.gov/explore](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/explore).
3. Rockville Trends and Data: [www.rockvillemd.gov/census](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/census).
4. Neighborhoods: [www.rockvillemd.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/neighborhoods).
5. Parks and Facilities: [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation).
6. Rent or Reserve: [www.rockvillemd.gov/rentreserve](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rentreserve).
7. Police: [www.rockvillemd.gov/police](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police).
8. Speed Cameras: [www.rockvillemd.gov/police/speedcameras.htm](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/police/speedcameras.htm).
9. Red Light Cameras: [www.rockvillemd.gov/redlight](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/redlight).
10. Weekly Crime Reports: [www.rockvillemd.gov/crimereports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/crimereports).
11. Parking: [www.rockvillemd.gov/parking](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/parking).
12. Development: [www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/developmentwatch).
13. Neighborhood Advisories: [www.rockvillemd.gov/neighborhoodadvisories](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/neighborhoodadvisories).
14. Connect With Us: [www.rockvillemd.gov/connections](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/connections).
15. Questions, Comments, Concerns and Requests: [www.rockvillemd.gov/reportaconcern](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/reportaconcern). ❖

### Important Pest Notice

## City Fights Beetle Infestation in Ash Trees

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been identified in Rockville neighborhoods, and the city is taking steps to keep the destructive beetle from spreading.

EAB is a non-native, wood-boring beetle that is specific to ash trees and has killed tens of millions of trees nationwide. This pest feeds on the vascular system of the tree throughout the summer and fall and disrupts the translocation of water and nutrients within the tree, eventually killing it. Once a significant infestation has been identified, treatment options have been proven to be ineffective in saving trees.

After discovering an infestation in the Potomac Springs neighborhood, the city is working to remove all of the street trees on Twin Oaks Drive between Seven Locks Road and Oakenshield Drive.

Although these infected trees will be removed, EAB is present in Rockville and all ash trees are at risk. There are insecticidal treatments that are effective in keeping trees free of EAB. If you have ash trees on your property that are important to you, consult with a licensed tree expert to determine the best treatment options.

Information on how to identify ash trees and what symptoms to look for can be found at [www.mda.](http://www.mda.)



**Top: Emerald Ash Borer.**  
**Middle: An infected ash tree shows signs of beetle's serpentine trails under the bark.**  
**Bottom: Ash tree leaves.**

[maryland.gov/plants-pests](http://maryland.gov/plants-pests) or [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info).

If you have any questions, contact City Forester Wayne Noll at 240-314-8700 or [wnoll@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:wnoll@rockvillemd.gov), or Neighborhood Resources Coordinator Rocio Snowdy at [rsnowdy@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rsnowdy@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8345. ❖

### INFO. AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

#### Outdoor Community Yard Sale

Check out the bargains or sign up as a vendor to sell your treasures at Rockville's Spring Outdoor Community Yard Sale, from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 18, in the Richard Montgomery High School parking lot. (Set up is from 7-8 a.m.)

Vendors must preregister with payment to secure a space that includes one parking spot and a 6x3 table. Register via Rock Enroll at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov) or in person at City Hall or city recreation facilities. Register for one table (\$20) using course #51022. Register for an additional table using course #51023.

In case of rain, the sale will be held on Sunday, April 19.

For more information, call the Lincoln Park Community Center at 240-314-8780.



**Your bike's serial number is located in one of five places: under the crank, headset, rear stays, seat down tube that is next to the crank or on top of crank. See ● above for locations.**

#### Fight Bike Theft – Register Bikes with Police

Registering your bike with the police can help you recover it, if it is stolen. Register your bike in person at the Rockville City Police Department station at 2 W. Montgomery Ave. Bring the bike with you or write down your bike's serial number, which is commonly located in one of the five places shown in the graphic above. Community members can also register bikes with Montgomery County Police at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/bike-registration.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/bike-registration.html). A registration sticker will be mailed to you.

#### Work on Draft Rockville's Pike Plan Continues

The Mayor and Council are expected to wrap up several months of work on the draft Rockville's Pike Plan soon.

Their letter to the Planning Commission outlining suggestions for edits on the draft plan was expected to be approved in late March. The Mayor and Council have expressed interest in approving a final version of the Pike Plan within their current term, which ends in November.

The draft plan, which is being updated for the first time since 1989, establishes policies for land use, transportation, parks and other topics along a key 2-mile stretch of the Pike corridor. During a public preview period granted to them by the Planning Commission, the Mayor and Council held five public hearings, a town hall meeting, a walking tour of the plan area and several work sessions.

Once the Mayor and Council forward their letter to the Planning Commission, the commission will consider the council's suggestions. The commission may incorporate those suggestions into the final version of the plan they will send on to the Mayor and Council for adoption.

Learn more and read the plan or its 9-page executive summary at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike). Hard copies are available for review at City Hall, the Rockville and Twinbrook libraries, and at Rockville community centers.

## Make Your Way to Rockville Science Day *26th Annual Science Day Offers Hands-on Science Experience*

Check out more than 90 exhibits at this free event, where you can build and launch rockets, visit reptiles up close, conduct chemistry experiments, use telescopes to view the sun and interact with robots.

Visitors can purchase food at the event. There is plenty of free parking, and Science Day will be held rain or shine. View a

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** Rockville Science Day  
**WHEN:** Sunday, April 26, noon-5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Montgomery College-Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St.  
**COST:** FREE

photo album from last year's Science Day at [www.rockvillescience.org/Album14](http://www.rockvillescience.org/Album14).

This event is coordinated by the Rockville Consortium



for Science, a program of the Rockville Science Center, and is supported by the City of Rockville and Montgomery

College. Sign up to exhibit or volunteer at the event by emailing [scienceday@rockvillescience.org](mailto:scienceday@rockvillescience.org). ❖

Photo Credit: Rockville Science Center.



*Strings and Things 'Inside out-Outside in,' works in fiber on exhibit in April.*

### Glenview Gallery to Display Oil Paintings on Linen, Other Artwork in April

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery will open its April exhibition with a free reception open to the public to meet the artists from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.

Visitors will enjoy a concert by Barbara Martin and Robert Redd at 2 p.m. during the reception.

Artwork on display through April 24 includes works by:

- Jorge Bernal - 'Horizons' encaustic monotypes
- Alexey Zoob - oil paintings on linen
- Strings and Things - 'Inside out-Outside in' works in fiber

The gallery, in the mansion in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. It is closed on weekends and holidays.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview) gallery or by calling the gallery director at 240-314-8682.

### Sister City Group Hosts Wine Tasting

Rockville Sister City Corporation invites you to a wine tasting to benefit the organization, which fosters relationships between Rockville and its sister city of Pinneberg, Germany, and friendship city of Jiaxing, China.

The wine tasting is from 7-9:30 p.m. on Friday, April 17 at Glenview Mansion, in Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.

Reserve your spot for \$25 by April 9 by sending a check to Rockville Sister City Corp., City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD, 20850. Tickets are the door are \$30.

For more information on RSCC, visit [www.rockvillesistercities.org](http://www.rockvillesistercities.org) or contact John Rodgers at 301-424-2980 or [rodgers.metro@gmail.com](mailto:rodgers.metro@gmail.com).

## ROCK YOUR SUMMER!

**CAMPS OPEN TO ALL METRO AREA FAMILIES**



- Over 65 camps from June 15-Aug. 19
- Before- and after-care; transportation
- One and multi-week options
- Open to ages 3-16
- Register now for best rate. Early bird discount ends April 8

[www.rockvillemd.gov/camps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/camps)  
240-314-8620

# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Mockingbird' and Music from Movies at Fitzgerald Theatre

Harper Lee's famous "To Kill A Mockingbird," tells the story of racial injustice en-



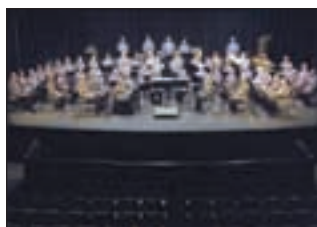
veloping a small-town community in the Deep South. Through cour-

age and compassion, lawyer Atticus Finch seeks the truth, and his daughter, Scout -- a young girl on the brink of adulthood -- brings new hope to a neighborhood in turmoil.

Rockville Little Theatre presents this classic story on stage at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Showtimes are:

- 8 p.m. on Fridays, April 24 and May 1 and Saturdays, April 25 and May 2;
- 2 p.m. on Sundays, April 26 and May 3.

Tickets are \$22 adult; \$20 senior (62+) and student with ID.



Hear music from the movies preformed by the Rockville Concert Band in "Music For All Ages: Reel Music." No tickets are required; \$5 suggested donation. The concert is at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 12.



The theater also hosts several performances in April by Home School Talents. View details at [www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar).

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, nestled in Rockville's Civic Center Park at 603 Edmonston Drive, is used primarily by community theater groups and professional touring companies. The theater and its social hall are available as rental venues for public and private events.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre) or by calling the Box Office at 240-314-8690. +



## A-RTS Festival Comes to Rockville Town Square

Don't miss the 3rd Annual A-RTS at Rockville Town Square fine art festival on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3.

The festival will feature 160 master artisans, with original work at every price point, lining Gibbs Street, Maryland Avenue and East Middle Lane in Rockville Town Square. Visitors can take part in live participatory

art such as painting, drawing and ceramics. Live music will be featured and artisanal foods will be available for purchase.



Rockville Town Square parking garages will remain open for the festival. The event runs from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on May 2; and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on May 3.

Learn more at [www.A-RTS.org](http://www.A-RTS.org) or visit the festival's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/RockvilleArtsFestival](http://www.facebook.com/RockvilleArtsFestival). +

HOSTED BY CITY OF ROCKVILLE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

# SATURDAY, MAY 23- MONDAY, MAY 25

ROCKVILLE TOWN CENTER

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND • 2015

## HOMETOWN HOLIDAYS MUSIC FEST







# HTH

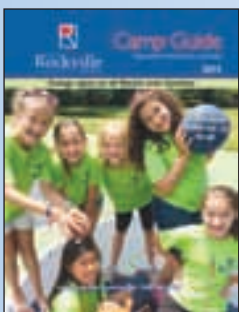
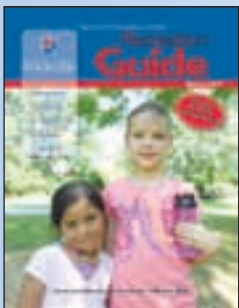
240-314-8620  
[WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/HTH](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/HTH)

#HTH15 #HometownHolidays

City of Rockville  
Get Into It

## FACILITIES ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery**  Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre**  Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **Croydon Creek Nature Center**  Rockville Civic Center Park, 852 Avery Road. Note: Registration is required, register online at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8770.
- **Rockville Senior Center**  1150 Carnation Drive. Call 240-314-8800.
- **Rockville City Hall**  111 Maryland Ave. Call 240-314-5000.
- **Celebrate Earth Month event:** 




**REGISTRATION INFO**  
Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Register online via [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov) or in person at City Hall or Rockville recreation facilities. Find something that interests you at [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide).

**1 Summer Playgrounds Registration Begins** This supervised drop-in program is held at 10 locations across the city, with before- and after-care available at two sites. Spaces are limited. Register now. Find details in the spring recreation guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide).

**1 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Community**

# April Calendar


R = Residents • NR = Non Residents • MEM = Member • NM = Non Member • Celebrate Earth Month by attending an event marked with a  symbol.

Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free income tax preparation for 2014. If your family earned less than \$53,000 last year, free help is available. Schedule an appointment at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/freetaxhelp). 4-8 p.m. 

**8 Last Chance for Early Bird Specials on Select Summer Camps** Register now and get \$10 off Pump House Pottery, Science Surrounds You, Campventures or Way Off Broadway. Find details in the camp guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide).


**6-10 Spring Break Mini Camp** Children in kindergarten through fifth grade will enjoy supervised programs including crafts, organized games, sports, cooking and adventure. Bring a lunch. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lincoln Park, Twinbrook and Thomas Farm community centers.

**6-10 Spring Break Life-guard Training Class** American Red Cross lifeguard training course certifies students in lifeguard training, CPR/AED for the professional rescuer, and first aid. Students must be 15 years old by the last day of the course and pass a pre-screen swim test. Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane.

**11 27th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** Clean up the watershed at one of three sites: 9 a.m.-noon at Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road; 9-11 a.m. at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway; or 10 a.m.-noon at Maryvale Park, 812 First St. Student Service Learning hours available. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. To register, or for more information, contact environment@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8877. 


**12 "Music for All Ages: Reel Music," presented by Rockville Concert Band** See article on page 6. 3 p.m. 


**12 High Flyers** Explore aerodynamics by making flyers and testing them outdoors. Spaces


are limited. Ages 5-12. Register for course #51084. 3:30-4:15 p.m. 

**17 Rockville Sister City Wine Tasting** Join Rockville Sister City Corporation for an evening wine tasting. Reserve a spot by making checks payable to "RSCC" and mailing to: Rockville Sister City Corp., City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. Call John Rodgers at 301-424-2980. 7 p.m. 


**18 Spring Outdoor Community Yard Sale** Check out bargains or sell your treasures. Vendors must preregister, with payment, to secure a space that includes a parking spot and a 6-by-3 table. Cost \$20 per table. First table, course #51022. Additional table, course #51023. Rain date: April 19. Setup 7-8 a.m. Sale 8 a.m.-noon. Richard Montgomery H.S. parking lot, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.


**18 Rockville Solar Co-op Information Meeting** See article on page 8. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Pepco - Rockville Customer Service Center, 201 West Gude Drive. 


**18 Nature Tots: Turtles** A naturalist will help adults and children explore the topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Adult participation is required. Preregistration strongly recommended. Course #51061. 10-11:30 a.m. 


**18 Star Party** Look through telescopes with an astronomer and enjoy a campfire treat. All participants must register, including adults. Dependent on weather and clear skies. Course #51073. 8:30-9:30 p.m. 

**19 Rabies Clinic** See article on page 4. 8-10:30 a.m. Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood.

**19 Invasive Species Pull** Work with a regional expert to pull invasive plants. Student Service Learning hours available. No registration needed. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. 1:30-4:30 p.m. 


**21 Shingles Vaccination Clinic** Seniors 65 and up who have had chicken pox should be vaccinated. Insurance covers part of the co-pay. Call Ashley McFarland at 240-965-2972 to sign up. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Health Room. 

**22 Earth Day/Arbor Day Ceremony** See article on page 8. 1 p.m. Christ Episcopal School, 109 S. Washington St. 



**23 Rockville Senior Center Open House** Meet new and prospective members and representatives from senior clubs, take a "behind the scenes" tour and learn about center member benefits and happenings. 1-3 p.m. in the Carnation Room. 


**23 Nature Tots: Flowers** A naturalist will help adults and children explore the topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Adult participation is required. Preregistration strongly recommended. Course #51062. 10:30-11:30 a.m. 

**23 Senior Center Art Show and Reception** Opening night of art exhibition featuring work by the center's watercolor and drawing classes. Refreshments provided. Free. 6-8 p.m. 

**24,25 "To Kill a Mockingbird," presented by Rockville Little Theatre** See article on page 6. 8 p.m. 

**25 Yoga in Our Parks** Join us outside for a beginner yoga class. All ages. Course #50646. 9-10 a.m. Calvin Park, 1248 Gladstone Drive.

**25 Spring Festival and Native Plant Sale** See article on page 4. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  

**26 Science Day** See article on page 5. Noon-5 p.m. Montgomery College—Rockville, 51 Mannakee St. Free. 

**26 "To Kill a Mockingbird," presented by Rockville Little Theatre** See article on page 6. 2 p.m. 

## Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check the City website for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

**1 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of the month.

**2 Environment Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the first Thursday of the month.

**8,22 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

**8 Cultural Arts Commission** 7 p.m. Meets the second Wednesday of the month.

**11 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m. Meets the second Saturday of the month and is televised on Rockville 11.

**14 Human Services Advisory Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the second Tuesday of the month.

**15 Rockville Housing Enterprises** 6:30 p.m. Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 621-A Southlawn Lane.

**16 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

**16 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the third Thursday of the month.

**21 Rockville Seniors Inc.** 1 p.m. Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.

**22 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Wednesday of the month.


**28 Traffic and Transportation Commission** 7:30 p.m. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month.

**30 Recreation and Park Advisory Board** 7 p.m. Meets the fourth Thursday of the month.

## Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Compensation Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (1)
- Historic District Commission (1; alternate)
- Human Rights Commission (2)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Commission (2; alternate members)
- Senior Citizens Commission (1)
- Rockville Sister City Corporation (1)
- Traffic and Transportation (2)



**'Rockville Reports' Reader Survey**

The city is gathering feedback on "Rockville Reports" reader habits and preferences.

*We want to hear from you!*

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey at:

[www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereportssurvey](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereportssurvey)

Thank you for your help as we work to improve "Rockville Reports."

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTING, VISIT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR)

## Resultados de encuesta a la comunidad, el presupuesto de la ciudad y festivales de primavera

Este es el resumen de algunos de los titulares más prominentes de esta edición de "Rockville Reports":

La calidad de vida de Rockville sacó un alto puntaje en las encuestas a la comunidad

En la encuesta a la comunidad más reciente, 93% de los residentes calificaron la calidad de vida en Rockville, en general, como "excelente" o "buena". Un 93% también dijo que Rockville es un excelente o un buen lugar para criar niños. Lea los resultados completos en [www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey).

[www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/communitysurvey).

Estudio de presupuesto: año fiscal 2016

La propuesta del presupuesto para el año fiscal 2016 de la Administradora de la ciudad, Barb Matthews, incluye una propuesta de \$122.3 millones para el presupuesto de operaciones. La tasa actual de impuestos sobre bienes inmuebles, de \$0.292 por cada \$100 de valuación tasada, permanecería igual para el año fiscal 2016. Puede encontrar las fechas de las audiencias para presu-


puesto y para sesiones de trabajo y leer el presupuesto en [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).

### Festivales destacados

Croydon Creek Nature Center, en el 852 Avery Road, llevará a cabo un festival gratuito para celebrar la primavera de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. el sábado, 25 de abril que contará con caminatas, artesanía y juegos, exposiciones de sostenibilidad, una función de animales vivos y venta

de comida y plantas regionales. Visite [www.rockvillemad.gov/gov/croydon-creek](http://www.rockvillemad.gov/gov/croydon-creek) o llame al 240-314-8770.

El festival de bellas artes A-RTS en Rockville Town Square se llevará a cabo de 11 a.m. -6 p.m. el sábado, 2 de mayo y de 11 a.m. -5 p.m. el domingo, 3 de mayo. El festival contará con 160 artesanos expertos, con arte participativo, música en vivo y comida artesanal. Visite [www.A-RTS.org](http://www.A-RTS.org) o [www.facebook.com/RockvilleARtsFestival](http://www.facebook.com/RockvilleARtsFestival).

Para obtener más información en español, visite [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) y busque la casilla que dice "Select Language" en la esquina inferior del lado derecho de la página. 

## IN BRIEF

### Free Lectures on Rockville's Past

Learn the history of three Rockville neighborhoods as Peerless Rockville's "Modern Living for a Modern City" series returns this month, featuring the following presentations:

- **Lincoln Park** from noon-2 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 at the Lincoln Park Community Center. Judy Christensen, a former historic preservation planner for the City of Rockville, will be the speaker.
  - **Rockville Pike** from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 25 in the Rockville Senior Center dining room. Historian Teresa Lachin presents images, photos and maps in "On the Go: Pike and Car Culture."
  - **Rockshire** from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, May 16 at the Rockshire Community Room, 2351 Wootton Parkway. Robin D. Ziek, an architect and historic preservation professional and former planner with the City of Rockville, presents "Rockshire: Environmental Planning of Suburbia."
- "Modern Living for a Modern City" events are free and open to the public. To learn more, visit [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org) or call 301-762-0096.

# Neighborhood Notes

## New Rockville 11 Special Highlights 'Favorite Neighbors'

Rockville is a city of neighborhoods and neighbors. A new Rockville 11 program offers the chance to meet some of the neighbors who make the city special.

Rocío Snowdy hosts a look at some of the best episodes of "Meet Your Neighbor" in "Rockville's Favorite Neighbors." The special program features profiles of:

- Castilla McNamara, a Rockville senior who

took up fencing later in life.

- Self-proclaimed "extreme environmentalist" Chuck Woolery.
- Sima Osdoby, who oversees elections around the world.
- Father and author Paul Stankus.
- Jon Freda, a Rockville native whose path led him back to Richard Montgomery High School.
- Crystal and Antwain

Hawkins, who founded a group dedicated to mentoring young women and molding better daughters, sisters, leaders and greater women of society.

"Rockville's Favorite Neighbors" can be found on the city's YouTube channel at [www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube) and on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable systems. Check program listings at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).

Produced by Rockville 11 and the city's Neighborhood Resources Division, "Meet Your Neighbor" is a monthly feature that profiles community members who contribute their time and talents to Rockville.

To nominate someone for a future installment of "Meet Your Neighbor," please email [meetyourneighbor@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:meetyourneighbor@rockvillemd.gov). ✚

# Earth Day 2015

► See the calendar on page 7 for Earth Month events – look for the  symbol. ◀

## Co-op Offers Support and Discount for Going Solar

*Environment Commission to Hold Info Session on April 18*

Rockville homeowners who have entertained thoughts of going solar could find new incentives to do so through a solar cooperative being organized by the city's Environment Commission.

Rockville Solar Co-op is a group-purchasing program that will make it easier and more affordable for participants to install rooftop solar panels on their homes. The co-op will organize groups of neighbors to "go solar" together, to collectively make an informed purchase and negotiate a volume discount.

An information session for interested homeowners will be held from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, April 18 at the Pepco-Rockville Customer Service Center, at 201 West Gude Drive.

In the next few years, electricity from solar is expected to become cheaper for homes than electricity via the grid. "Now is the time to get involved," said Clark Reed, chair of the Environment Commission.

Rockville is one of the first communities to establish a solar co-op as part of a grant program through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). A COG-supported solar consultant, the nonprofit Community Power Network, through its Maryland Sun program, will lead education and outreach efforts, provide technical expertise, and help guide consumers through a bulk purchase process to lower installation

and equipment costs. While each homeowner signs an independent contract with the installer for their own system, participants will have the confidence that they are getting a fair price by being part of a group. By banding together to purchase larger quantities, co-ops can reduce installation costs by up to 30 percent.

"This is not something that only wealthy people are doing right now," said Reed, who works with the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program. More than 100 homes in Rockville use solar energy, including six in Reed's Twinbrook neighborhood, he said.

That wasn't the case in 2003 when, after a year of energy projects that reduced his home's energy use by 40 percent, such as compact fluorescent lighting, Energy Star-certified appliances and energy-efficient windows, Reed's family invested in solar panels.

The 1 kilowatt array on the Reed home produces about 800 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year—about 30 percent of the electricity used by the home. The average home served by Pepco uses about 11,160 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, according to the state's Public Service Commission. Reed's home uses about 2,600 kilowatt-hours. Electricity costs for similar homes are more than \$1,000 a year. Reed's electricity costs are less than \$500 a year.

Declining prices and a variety



of financial incentives including state grants, federal tax credits (set to expire in 2016), net metering and solar renewable energy credits, make it a great time to "go solar."

At today's rates, Reed said his family could've put three times the amount of solar panels on the roof of their home as they did in 2003. "That, I'm frankly pretty envious of," he said.

For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/solar-homes](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/solar-homes) or email [environment@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:environment@rockvillemd.gov). ✚

## Rockville to Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with Tree Planting, 'Green-up'

*Mayor and Council Proclaim Earth Hour, Earth Day and Earth Month*

April 22 marks the 45th anniversary of the first Earth Day, which is now celebrated in more than 175 countries as a day to increase awareness and appreciation of our planet's natural environment.

The Mayor and Council issued a proclamation on March 23 declaring Saturday, March 28 from 8:30-9:30 p.m. as "Earth Hour," April as "Earth Month," and Wednesday, April 22 as "Earth Day" in Rockville.

Earth Hour was first observed in Sydney, Australia in 2007 and has grown into a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (known in the United States as the World Wildlife Fund) to raise awareness about climate change. Individuals, communities, households and businesses are encouraged to turn off nonessential lights for one hour on the last Saturday in March. The City of Rockville participated in this year's Earth Hour by turning

off nonessential lights at the Gude Maintenance Facility and at the Water Treatment Plant.

Rockville will celebrate Earth Day/Arbor Day on April 22 at Christ Episcopal School, 109 S. Washington St. Students will head outside in the morning to learn from Rockville staff about the importance of keeping local streams and rivers healthy and about the many ways they can care for the local environment. Arbor Day will be observed with a ceremony at 1 p.m. that is free and open to the public. The ceremony will include a proclamation from the Mayor and Council, the presentation of Rockville's 26th consecutive "Tree City USA" award, a tree planting and a student performance.

Check out tips for helping the environment year-round, learn how to bring an environmental speaker to your next community meeting and find more details about Earth Day events at [www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/earthmonth). ✚



Get Into It

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